



The following is an excerpt from Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) from November 3, 2006, Volume 55, No. 43, page 1177.

Notice to Readers

Improved Supply of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Recommendation to Resume Vaccination of Children Aged 11–12 Years

In January 2005, a tetravalent meningococcal polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccine (MCV4) (Menactra™, Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., Swiftwater, Pennsylvania) was licensed for use among persons aged 11–55 years. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination with MCV4 for children aged 11–12 years at their regular health-care visit and, if not previously vaccinated with MCV4, of adolescents at high-school entry (at approximately age 15 years), of college freshmen living in dormitories, and of other persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease (i.e., military recruits, travelers to areas in which meningococcal disease is hyperendemic or epidemic, microbiologists who are routinely exposed to isolates of *Neisseria meningitidis*, persons with anatomic or functional asplenia, and persons with terminal complement deficiency) (1).

In May 2006, CDC, in consultation with ACIP, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College Health Association, and Society for Adolescent Medicine, recommended deferral of MCV4 vaccination of children aged 11–12 years in response to

vaccine supply limitations (2). Currently, Sanofi Pasteur reports that limitations in the MCV4 supply have resolved. Therefore, CDC recommends resuming routine vaccination for all recommended groups according to ACIP recommendations, including children aged 11–12 years and, if not previously vaccinated with MCV4, of adolescents at high-school entry (at approximately age 15 years), of college freshmen living in dormitories, and of other persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease. Where possible, providers who deferred vaccination of children aged 11–12 years should recall those patients for vaccination. Providers who have questions about ordering vaccine may contact Sanofi Pasteur at 1-800-VACCINE or at <http://www.vaccineshoppe.com>.

References

1. CDC. Prevention and control of meningococcal disease: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2005;54(No. RR-7):1–21.
2. CDC. Limited supply of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, recommendation to defer vaccination of persons aged 11–12 years. MMWR 2006;55:567–8.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Division of Epidemiology and Immunization

MDPH urges providers to resume routine MCV4 vaccination for all recommended age groups as outlined in this alert. However, please be aware that an increase in MCV4 availability sufficient for vaccination of all of the recommended groups is not anticipated until 2008. Keep in mind that state-supplied MCV4 vaccine is only available for Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible children. Privately purchased MCV4 vaccine must be used for all non-VFC-eligible children. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800 or 888-656-2850.